

FACT SHEET

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Pueblo Chemical Depot

Ensuring Community Safety Through Secure Chemical Weapons Storage at Pueblo Chemical Depot

Safe and secure storage of the nation's chemical weapons stockpile is an important component of the overall mission of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA).

Safe and Secure Storage

Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) houses 2,611 tons (2,369 metric tons) of mustard agent in approximately 780,000 munitions, comprising seven percent of the nation's original chemical materiel stockpile. CMA oversees the secure storage at PCD, ensuring the chemical agents and munitions are safely protected and monitored. To accomplish this, chemical agents and munitions are housed in designated storage areas and specially designed earth-covered magazines, commonly referred to as storage igloos or bunkers located on highly secure military installations where all Department of Defense and Army safety and security regulations are followed.

The igloos at PCD are specially constructed with many security and safety measures and processes, designed for the storage of chemical agents, ammunition and explosives. The igloos help keep chemical agents and munitions secure and protected from natural forces or man-made threats.

Made of steel-reinforced concrete and designed to safely store explosives, each igloo:

- Stands about 12.5 feet high, 26 feet wide and either 40, 60 or 80 feet long—the largest igloos have 2,000 square feet of floor space.
- A wall thickness varying from one foot at the floor to six inches at the top, with a six-inch slab floor.
- A headwall of 10-inch thick, steel-reinforced concrete.

- Protected by a waterproof membrane that prevents moisture from entering.
- Maintains a temperature of about 40 to 70 degrees year round.
- Includes a lightning protection system.

Among the many security and safety procedures conducted are routine and random around-the-clock patrols to verify the security of chemical agent storage areas. Crews conduct regular, routine visual inspections of the munitions to ensure that safe storage practices are maintained and the physical condition of the igloo will continue to protect the chemical munitions.

Commitment to Safety

CMA is fully committed to the safety of the public, its workforce and the environment. Initial training of the workforce and certification in the Army's Personnel Reliability Program, followed by regular retraining and recertification help ensure safety is maintained at all times. CMA will continue its emphasis on safety to ensure that chemical agent and muntions stockpiles remain safely and securely stored until they are demilitarized.



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For more information, contact the Pueblo Chemical

Stockpile Outreach Office 104 W. B Street

Pueblo, CO 81003 Phone: (719) 546-0400

or contact the

Public Affairs Office
(719) 549-4135
usarmy,pueblo.usamc.mbx.pcd-pao@mail.mil

or the CMA Public Affairs Office (800) 488-0648